

Original

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EXHIBIT

1           IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2           EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA,  
3           NEWPORT NEWS DIVISION

4           BOBBY BLAND, DANIEL RAY CARTER, JR.,  
5           DAVID W. DIXON, ROBERT W. MCCOY,  
6           JOHN C. SANDHOFER, and DEBRA H. WOODWARD,

7                 Plaintiffs,

8                 v

9                 4:11cv45

10              B.J. ROBERTS, individually and in his  
11              official capacity as Sheriff of the  
12              City of Hampton, Virginia,

13                 Defendant.

14              DEPOSITION UPON ORAL EXAMINATION OF

15              JAMES ADAMS, JR.

16              Taken on behalf of the Defendant

17              Newport News, Virginia

18              August 23, 2011

19              -----oOo-----

20              INGRAM REPORTING  
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23              (757) 481-0935

1           A        I wanted to be there in case I could  
2 answer any questions.

3           Q        What stake did you have in whether the  
4 deputies filed a lawsuit against Sheriff Roberts?

5           A        Well, I knew that they were terminated  
6 based on their support for me, so my intent was to be  
7 there to answer any questions that might be necessary  
8 to benefit them in this case.

9           Q        So, were you trying to help them file --  
10 you were trying to help them?

11          A        No. No. No. No. No. I didn't  
12 have anything to do with their pursuit of  
13 Mr. Shoemaker, but after that was done, I attended  
14 that meeting.

15          Q        Okay. And your -- with the intent to try  
16 to help them in their lawsuit against Sheriff Roberts?

17          A        I was willing to help them. Yes.

18          Q        Okay. That was your political opponent  
19 in the sheriff's election, right?

20          A        That was over. The election was over,  
21 sir.

22          Q        All right. Okay. Do you plan to run in  
23 the next election in 2012?

24          A        I'm thinking about it.

25          Q        Okay. Well, certainly then, you would

1           A        No, not really. I mean, there was a lot  
2 of questions asked of the plaintiffs.

3           Q        Okay. Anything that you -- any  
4 information you provided other than what you've  
5 already testified to?

6           A        I don't recall.

7           Q        Okay. Did you have an outline or an  
8 agenda for the meeting?

9           A        No, I didn't. No.

10          Q        Okay. All right. Did you take any notes  
11 at the meeting?

12          A        No. I didn't have a notepad.

13          Q        All right. And then after that meeting,  
14 when was the next time you had any interaction with  
15 any of the plaintiffs or Mr. Shoemaker about this  
16 lawsuit?

17          A        Well, I -- Mr. Shoemaker invited myself  
18 and Deborah Davis to a meeting here to meet with him.

19          Q        Okay. So, that was after the FOP  
20 meeting?

21          A        Yes.

22          Q        Okay.

23          A        Uh-huh.

24          Q        All right. And you came to -- came here  
25 to the office?

1 A Yes.

2 Q All right. And what was the nature of  
3 that meeting?

4 A He just had questions for us pertaining  
5 to the lawsuit.

6 Q All right. And what did -- did you  
7 provide information at that time?

8 A Anything I could answer for him, I did.

9 Q All right. And what did he ask you?

10 A I really don't recall. I mean, I don't  
11 -- it just pertained to the lawsuit itself and -- but  
12 --

13 Q Did you provide him information that went  
14 into the lawsuit?

15 A I'm sorry?

16 Q Did you provide him information that went  
17 into the lawsuit?

18 A Went into the lawsuit?

19 Q Yeah, part of the allegations of the  
20 lawsuit. Did you provide him any of that information?  
21 For example --

22 A Well, I'm thinking about what the lawsuit  
23 says is what I'm trying to recall.

24 Q Okay. Have you seen the lawsuit?

25 A I have.

1 Q How did you see it? When did you see it?

2 A I pulled it off online.

3 Q Okay. So, that's the first time you saw  
4 it?

5 A Pardon me?

6 Q Is that the first time you saw it?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. Well, did you provide any written  
9 information when you came to meet with him in his  
10 office with Debra Woodward?

11 A No, with Deborah Davis.

12 Q Deborah -- oh, you came -- I'm sorry. I  
13 was confused. So, you came to his office,  
14 Mr. Shoemaker's office. You and Deborah Davis came to  
15 meet with him?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay.

18 A At his request.

19 Q With no plaintiffs present?

20 A Correct.

21 Q Okay. And why did you and Deborah Davis  
22 come?

23 A Because he invited us.

24 Q Okay. And -- okay. I thought you meant  
25 Debra Woodward. Okay. So, it was you and Deborah

1 Davis.

2 A Uh-huh.

3 Q And how soon after the FOP meeting was  
4 that?

5 A It was sometime thereafter. I don't  
6 recall.

7 Q A month? A week?

8 A More than a month.

9 Q Two months?

10 A Probably several months, a few months at  
11 least.

12 Q All right. Okay. And do you remember  
13 the nature of his inquiry at that meeting?

14 A You know, it's hard to say. It's been  
15 two years ago almost. It's hard to think exactly what  
16 he asked of us, but we gave him what information we  
17 could --

18 Q Okay.

19 A -- based on the questions he asked.

20 Q All right. Well, do you remember the  
21 subject matter he was questioning about?

22 A I really don't remember. I mean, if you  
23 could ask me something specifically, I'll tell you. I  
24 just don't -- I don't really recall what was asked.

25 Q Okay.

1           A       I didn't take notes or anything like  
2           that.

3           Q       All right. Well, have you ever met with  
4           a lawyer to help participate, provide information, in  
5           a lawsuit any other time?

6           A       I'm sorry? Say that again, please.

7           Q       Have you ever met with a lawyer to  
8           provide information to draft a lawsuit before?

9           A       Against --

10          Q       Ever before except this case?

11          A       I don't believe so.

12          Q       Okay. All right. So, I'm just trying to  
13          find out. This is not a usual thing you do is meet  
14          with lawyers and provide information to them, is it?

15          A       Well, I have -- I've taken depositions  
16          previously, and I've testified in court for Sheriff  
17          Roberts in the past --

18          Q       Okay.

19          A       -- so I have -- I have dealt with these  
20          things before.

21          Q       Okay. But you don't -- haven't met with  
22          lawyers in the past to take and provide information  
23          for lawsuits, have you?

24          A       Oh, yes. Yes. Well, actually, I know  
25          it's -- I'm not sure what you're asking, but there was

1       an issue with Attorney Jeff Knuckles (phonetics)  
2       during the campaign when I was trying to pursue  
3       documentation through the Freedom of Information Act,  
4       and they kind of said I wasn't entitled to it based on  
5       how I asked for it, so that -- that -- with that  
6       attorney. Yes.

7           Q       All right. Let's get it another way, try  
8       another way. Okay. So, you met with Mr. Shoemaker  
9       and Deborah Davis in Mr. Shoemaker's office --

10          A       Yes.

11          Q       -- sometime after the initial meeting at  
12       the FOP Club?

13          A       Yes.

14          Q       You can't remember what you discussed at  
15       that time?

16          A       No, not really.

17          Q       Okay. And you can't remember whether you  
18       -- did you give information or written documentation  
19       at that point about the sheriff's --

20          A       Oh, no. No. I didn't bring anything at  
21       that point.

22          Q       Okay. And you can't remember what was  
23       said?

24          A       I don't recall.

25          Q       Okay. Or the purpose of you coming in?

1           A       Well, I would suspect the purpose of us  
2 coming in was to find out what information we had that  
3 could benefit the plaintiffs.

4           Q       Okay. All right. And so, you tried to  
5 give him any information you could to help benefit the  
6 plaintiffs?

7           A       I answered his questions, and I answered  
8 them truthfully.

9           Q       And then did you meet with Mr. Shoemaker  
10 again?

11          A       Yes.

12          Q       When was that?

13          A       Sometime thereafter. I actually -- I  
14 actually came here to meet with him.

15          Q       Okay.

16          A       And he didn't even know I was coming, and  
17 I just -- I had some documentation I wanted to present  
18 him.

19          Q       Okay. And what documentation did you  
20 give him?

21          A       There was things pertaining to the golf  
22 tournament, who was involved in the golf tournament,  
23 the fundraising events, those of us that participated  
24 in that committee, the fact that things were happening  
25 in the sheriff's office, meetings were being held in

1           A       -- and myself.

2           Q       Okay. And what was the purpose of that  
3 meeting?

4           A       More questions and answers, you know,  
5 pertaining to the suit I think basically to find out  
6 our relationships more so of how I knew this and how I  
7 knew this person and how they knew me, that sort of  
8 thing.

9           Q       Okay. And what did you tell  
10 Mr. Shoemaker?

11          A       I answered his questions.

12          Q       Okay. What did you tell him about how  
13 you knew everyone?

14          A       Well, I knew Debbie Woodward from as an  
15 employee of the sheriff's office, and we had a lot in  
16 common based on her husband and her child, and Bobby  
17 Bland, playing softball and -- who played softball as  
18 an employee with the sheriff's office. And we talked  
19 about just those individuals that were there, I  
20 believe is the case, no one else that wasn't there. I  
21 don't think we discussed anybody else.

22          Q       All right. And at that meeting, did they  
23 take and sign retainer agreements to -- with  
24 Mr. Shoemaker?

25          A       I'm sorry?

1           A       I bought a ticket occasionally. I did  
2 not buy all the tickets. Most of the --

3           Q       Okay.

4           A       Most of the time, I didn't get tickets.

5           Q       All right. But you were not fired, were  
6 you?

7           A       No. I was not told I needed to buy or  
8 sell.

9           Q       All right. Well, when you didn't buy  
10 tickets, you were not terminated when you didn't buy  
11 tickets, were you?

12          A       I don't think anybody knew whether I  
13 bought tickets or not, to be honest with you.

14          Q       Okay.

15          A       But, no, I was not fired. No.

16          Q       Why did they know who bought tickets?  
17 Don't you have to pay personally?

18          A       Well, Captain Richardson was the one  
19 handling that. Whatever tickets I had, I gave him  
20 back the tickets, and whatever tickets I sold mostly  
21 is what I bought for myself.

22          Q       Okay. So, Captain Richardson certainly  
23 could have told Sheriff Roberts you didn't buy all the  
24 tickets, couldn't he?

25          A       Yeah. Whether he did or not, I don't

1 know.

2 Q Okay. And you don't know whether it was  
3 reported to Sheriff Roberts whether the plaintiffs  
4 bought or sold tickets or not, do you?

5 A I'm sorry? Say again.

6 Q Strike that. Nevermind. It was a bad  
7 question.

8 Did you tell Mr. Shoemaker that you were  
9 with the Hampton Sheriff's Office for 16 years and  
10 resigned in January of 2009 to run against Sheriff  
11 Roberts?

12 A That was -- well, you asked me that  
13 question yourself, and I told you that prior to my  
14 retirement, I planned to run. Yes.

15 Q Did you tell Mr. Shoemaker that --

16 A Yes.

17 Q -- when you met with him?

18 A Uh-huh.

19 Q Okay.

20 A Uh-huh.

21 Q All right. And at that time of your  
22 resignation, you were the lieutenant colonel within  
23 the office and third most senior officer?

24 A At the time of my retirement, yes.

25 Q You told Mr. Shoemaker that?

1 to a lot of people there.

2 Q What, you talked about why you were  
3 running for sheriff or --

4 A Yes.

5 Q How you were?

6 A Uh-huh.

7 Q You did talk about running for sheriff?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. Were there lots of deputies from  
10 the sheriff's department there?

11 A There were numerous deputies there. Yes.

12 Q Okay. More than just beside the  
13 plaintiffs, right?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Okay.

16 A Uh-huh.

17 Q So, other -- who else was there beside  
18 the plaintiffs; do you remember?

19 A Sherry Ferguson was there. I think  
20 Deputy Blizzard was there. I think Deputy Rawles was  
21 there. Deputy Larkins I think was there, I'm pretty  
22 sure. I mean, there were others as well. I just -- I  
23 don't remember.

24 Q Okay.

25 A I know those were there.